



Tapu!tea

...ina ia manino le folauga.

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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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Governor Togiola opens Youth & Community Conference: “We need to better serve our youth”

Governor Togiola Tulafono officially opened the Youth and Community Conference at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Stake Center in Ottoville, Tafuna. Sponsored by the Office of the Governor, the two-day conference, April 26th and 27th, solicited suggestions and recommendations from churches, youth organizations, the government, private sector, and the business community to develop and design a platform addressing challenges confronting American Samoa's youth now and the future.

Governor Togiola said the meeting is a youth and community partnership to support the future of the Territory's young people. Following is the official text of Governor Togiola's address at the Youth and Community Conference:

“I am very happy that you could join me today at the Youth and Community Conference because it provides a major opportunity to focus on the role of young people in the development of American Samoa and what we need to do for our young people and how to better serve them.

When it comes to the issue of youth, it isn't just the responsibility of government departments, such as Human and Social Services, and Youth and Women's Affairs. It is the responsibility of the family, the village, the church and the government. We need everybody's help. It is a collective community duty. Let us bring our minds together and create policies that will guide us in serving our youth much better.

Youth is one of the very important entities of government, as well as the Territory. Just as we include the youth, our children, on performing a variety of tasks in the family, in the village, in the church and in government, we should include them and their views. Their input is much needed.

We have much to be hopeful about at this meeting in finding the right solutions in giving sufficient voice of the youth in policies and programs that affect their future. So, let us take a positive approach to affirming and supporting the realization of the potential of all young people in American Samoa.

Troubles that surface for our youth stems from a change in the times. The family has changed. There was a time where families spent most of the day together and was the gathering to receive good counsel. Nowadays, we're lucky if we can spend four hours a day as a family and quality time. And we all know a stable family environment is much more likely to produce a well-adjusted child.

The youth do not seek high visibility because we take for granted that our young people are there. They are seen, not heard. And a critical success factor of this conference will be the extent to which we focus on the inclusion of young people in this development process, and on strategies for improving their lifetime outcomes.

Ways must be found to help them use their creative energy deliberately and positively in the development process. They need to see visible signs that they matter, and to be able to take action to help build their island home.

We need to better serve our youth by promoting self-confidence and organization that enables and empowers them to control and handle the many challenges that they face in life. Yes, serving our youth should be taken seriously because we have a vested interest in our young people.

Our youth also has a responsibility to their homeland, American Samoa, in being good citizens. Our youth should take advantage of any given opportunity to better themselves through education.

Young people must also do their part. It will not come on a silver platter. The government spends millions of dollars to educate our youth and they should learn, not only academics, but also the Samoan culture and about their families. Education provides, not only knowledge, it builds the foundation for students to become productive members of our island community.

I wish to thank the servants of God, youth directors of organizations and churches, traditional leaders, government department and office heads, our business community, the conference organizers and committee, and most importantly, the youth of American Samoa, for attending today. Your participation will make a significant difference in creating policies and approaches to the development of our youth development. We need to better serve our youth.”

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On April 28, 1900, U.S. Naval Station Commandant Benjamin Franklin Tilley issued his Regulation No. 3, which was "An Ordinance to Prohibit the Supply of Intoxicating Liquors to Natives." This reflected his belief that the Samoans and their lands must be protected from the "harmful elements" of western civilization.

On April 28, 1942, the Samoan Area Defense Force (later renamed the Samoan Defense Group) was established on Tutuila. The Force was commanded by Major General Charles F.B. Price, USMC, who "had seen service in France in World War I and was an early witness to Japanese aggression at Shanghai, China, while he was assigned to the American Legation from April 25, 1935 to November, 1938." Price was a "tough and outspoken person, not hesitant to speak up. For example, when the Marine Corps proposed sending Black Marines to Samoa, the general warned of the danger of contact between Blacks and the 'primitively romantic' Polynesian women. Mixture of the Polynesian with the white race and the Chinese had produced desirable results, said Price, but the Union of Blacks and Polynesians had to be guarded against. He recommended stationing them in Micronesia [*sic*], where they could do no racial harm."

On April 28, 1942, the U.S. Marine Corps' 2nd Defense Battalion operated post exchange (PX) branches at the following locations on Tutuila: "#1 Brig. Hqrs.--Fagaalu; #2 Leone; #3 Aua; #4 3rd Bn., 8th Marines; #5 Utulei; #6 Airport; #7 Engineer Co., #8 Hqrs., 8th Marines--Pago Valley."

On April 28, 1978, a South Pacific Island Airways (SPIA) Cessna 402 airplane crashed into Mount Fito (elevation: 3,608 feet), the highest peak on 'Upolu, Western Samoa. All ten people aboard were killed. A Royal New Zealand Air Force Bell UH-1D *Iroquois* ("Huey") helicopter, which was brought to Samoa in a RNZAF Lockheed C-130 *Hercules* transport plane, was used to remove the bodies, which had been brought to a flat area near 'Avele College.

On April 28, 1997, Uifa'atali Peter Tali Coleman, who was American Samoa's first Samoan Attorney General, first Samoan Governor, and first elected Governor, passed away at his home in Honolulu, Hawaii. Governor Coleman was "the only U.S. Governor ever to serve in that office for ...five [consecutive] decades." His survivors included "his wife, Nora; sons William P., Peter T., Jr., Milton, Bruce, Charles, Richard, Paul, Barrett and Alan; daughters Amata, Sina'ita'aga and Limonmon; sisters Laida and Marion; 23 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren."

On April 30, 1900, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley issued his "Regulation No. 4: Alienation of Native Lands." This and his "Regulation No. 5: A Declaration Concerning the Form of Government for the United States Naval Station Tutuila" (issued on May 1, 1900: *q.n.*) are considered to be the most important of the many regulations that Commander Tilley issued.

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On May 1, 1900, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila Commandant Benjamin Franklin Tilley issued his "Regulation No. 5-1900: Form of Government," which stated that: (1) The laws of the United States of America would be in force in American Samoa; (2) "The customs of the Samoans, not in conflict with the laws of the United States concerning American Samoa, shall be preserved, unless otherwise requested by the representatives of the people;" (3) Village, county and district councils would "retain their own form or forms of meeting together to discuss affairs of the village, county or district according to their own Samoan custom." (4) "The governor, for the time being, of American Samoa, is the head of the government. He is the maker of all laws, and he shall make and control all appointments." The subsequent sections of the Regulation dealt with districts, district governors, *pulemu'u*, judicial administration, village and district courts, the High Court, civil and criminal procedure, the Secretary of Native Affairs, and the Departments of Public Health and Public Works.

Governor Togiola honors Tafuna High School senior, Benjamin Fatuleai

Governor Togiola Tulafono honored 17 year-old Tafuna High School senior, Benjamin Fatuleai of Faleniu, as a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students.

In a presentation at the Office of the Governor, Fatuleai was presented with a plaque that lauded "Benjamin's commendable achievements have merited recommendations for the academic year 2005-2006.

Governor Togiola expressed congratulations to Fatuleai and his family and to all the people that loved and supported him throughout his educational and sporting pursuits.

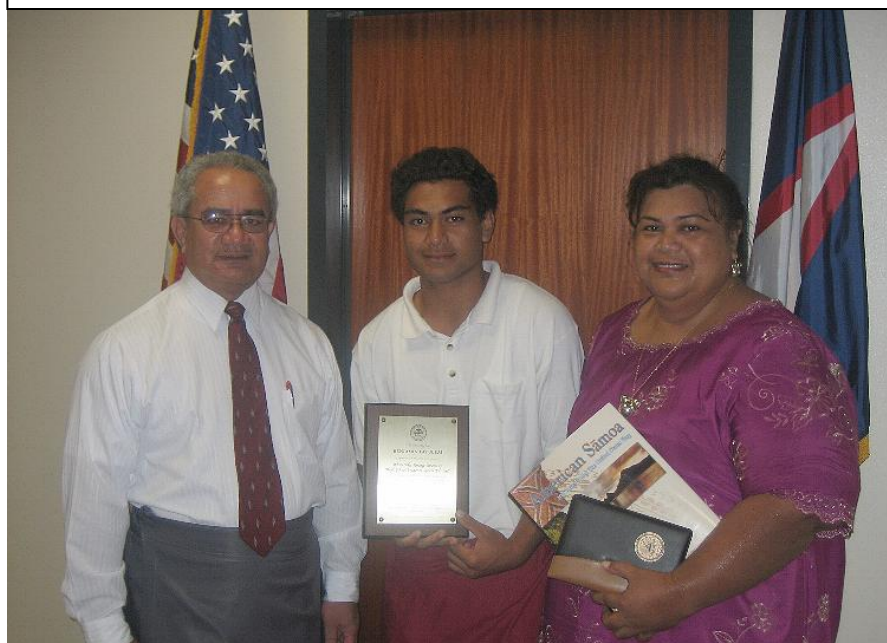
"Benjamin, it's very important to have family and community support and that is why we are here to offer our congratulations to you on being recognized as one of America's top students, having excelled in scholastics as well as athletics. You should be proud of your achievement," said Governor Togiola. "You can attribute this honor to your years of tireless work and your enduring commitment to service to your school and to your community."

Governor Togiola applauded Fatuleai's outstanding dedication as a Warrior at Tafuna High School and he said it was indeed a pleasure and an honor to present the well-deserved award.

"May the Good Lord continue to bless you with this award that honors tomorrow's leaders and also guide you safely in all your future endeavors. Fa'afetai ma Fa'amalo," said Governor Togiola.

According to Who's Who Among America's High School Students based in Austin, Texas, "Benjamin is in the top 5% of students who have achieved academic excellence and will have an academic biography printed in the 40th Edition for the current year, along with an opportunity to receive college scholarship money."

Benjamin Fatuleai is the son of Mrs. Fa'aolataga Tauofe and the late Pio Liufau of Faleniu and he is currently planning and working on his Eagle Scout project to erect a sign monument for the baseball field in Tafuna.



ASCC/CNR to Host Talk on National Parks' Impact On Local Environment and Culture

(Press Release) The Community & Natural Resources (CNR) Research Seminar Series continues this week with a talk entitled "National Parks of American Samoa and the Local Population: What Future Can We Expect for the Territory?" by Marieke Blondet, a PhD student of the University of Otago, New Zealand, and the School of High Studies in Social Sciences, France.

Blondet came to in American Samoa in January to study how the Territory's National Parks influence our people's perception of the land and the environment. She has spent time living in the village of Vatia and interviewing its people over the past several months as part of her research. Time permitting, Blondet hopes to work with more villages that have varying degrees of association with the Parks.

Elaborating on her research topic, a statement from Blondet reads, "The National Park establishment could change the face of American Samoa in the future. The U.S. National Park Service and the Federal Government want to develop the tourist industry in the Territory. This could be a good opportunity for the island economy, but may jeopardize the Samoan lifestyle and customs, as well as the fragile island environment. Therefore, a better understanding of how the Park's presence affects peoples' values will aid policy makers in their decisions."

Blondet's talk will take place this Thursday, April 27th, at 3 p.m. in the CNR Conference Room at the American Samoa Community College. The public is welcome to attend. For more information, call CNR at 699-1575 during normal business hours and ask for Dr. Eric Hanson or Dr. Fred Brooks.

Share important activities

with our ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa.

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Governor Togiola receives Flag Day messages from President George W. Bush and Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle

Governor Togiola Tulafono was happy to announce that he received by air mail this past week Flag Day greetings from all of American Samoa from President George W. Bush and also from Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii.

Governor Togiola said the messages arrived with the spirit of Flag Day still upon the Territory as we continue to honor and pay tribute to our soldiers –Toa o Samoa– throughout the Flag Day month April.

"It is indeed a great honor for all of American Samoa to receive these special messages of best wishes from the President of the United States and the Governor of Hawaii for Flag Day," said Governor Togiola. "We dedicated Flag Day this year to our soldiers so that we can properly thank them and their families for their sacrifice to protect the freedom that we continue to enjoy everyday. So, these words of congratulations come to add more of a special honor to our tribute."

In the message from the White House written on March 30, 2006, President Bush said: "Throughout our history, America has benefited from the contributions of people of different backgrounds brought together by a love of liberty."

"American Samoa Flag Day celebrates the raising of the American flag at Sogelau Hill on April 17, 1900, and marks the day these islands became a territory of the United States. American Samoa holds a special place in our Nation's history, and Americans are grateful for the people of these islands," wrote President Bush.

"This year's Flag Day provides an opportunity to honor the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have returned home to American Samoa and to remember those who have given their lives in the defense of freedom. The courage and sacrifice of these patriots have helped liberate millions from oppression and protected our Nation and our way of life," said America's Executive in Chief.

"Our country is proud of their service, and I am proud to be their Commander in Chief. I appreciate the men and women of our military and all those honoring them during this year's celebration. Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless America," the U.S. president wrote to Governor Togiola.

Governor Togiola expressed the sincere gratitude of the people and government of American Samoa for the Flag Day greetings from America's Executive in Chief and the Governor of Hawaii.

"I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to President Bush for his message of support of our annual efforts to commemorate the raising of the Stars and Stripes in our homeland and also for the words of honor for our Toa o Samoa," said Governor Togiola. "A message such as this always reassures and reinforces our true belief, that although our island home is small in size, what we offer America through the service of our sons and daughters in the military is a contribution unmatched by other lands of similar population. I want to thank the President for expressing his appreciation for American Samoa. I applaud the commitment of the U.S. to the Territory of American Samoa. America was well represented at this year's festivities in honoring our troops with the participation of the world renowned U.S. Marine Pacific Band."

"I would also like to thank the Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor of the Great State of Hawaii, and Lieutenant Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona, for the Flag Day greeting," said Governor Togiola. "I very much appreciate the support from Hawaii because it is our island home's biggest neighbor. Thank you for sharing the spirit of aloha."

The message from the 50th State read:

"On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, we send greetings of aloha to the Honorable Togiola T.A. Tulafono and the citizens of American Samoa on the 106th anniversary of the raising of the United States flag on Samoan soil.

We are most happy that this year's flag raising ceremony will pay tribute to the brave men and women in uniform who risk their lives to protect the freedom that we value.

All of us are grateful for the safe return of our many troops. They have served us with honor abroad. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who are still in service to our nation."

The Flag Day message was signed by Governor Linda Lingle and Lieutenant Governor James R. "Duke" Aiona of Hawaii.

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High School of American Samoa/Samoana Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Samoana High School, formally High School of American Samoa, celebrated 60 years of existence this past week. Several generations, from the first graduating class of 1950 to the class of 2005, gathered at the Samoana gym on Sunday, April 23rd, for a special church service to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the first high school established in American Samoa, and the beginning of week-long activities to celebrate its 60 year history. The church service, led by Rev. Fa'atui Laolagi, a member of the class of 1951, was well attended. In fact, Rev. Laolagi testified that it is one of the largest, if not the largest, gathering at the Samoana gym that he has witnessed. The Reverend encouraged the Samoana Alumni to continue to proudly hold the Torch of Knowledge high and let it continue to shine brightly into the future as it has for the generations gathered at Sunday's service.

When the high school was founded in 1946, it was originally named Samoana then a short time later renamed High School of American Samoa, as it was the only high school in the Territory. Later, as new high schools were built throughout the Territory, the name reverted back to Samoana.

Wednesday evening, April 26th, was "fiafia nite", and it was a night to be remembered for years to come. The Samoana Alumni turned out in force to support their alma mater and show their Samoana Pride. Governor Togiola Tulafono, a Samoana graduate himself, class of 1966, during his special remarks said, "I am filled with pride and joy to be affiliated with this alumni and to witness this special gathering because, as I look around tonight, I see leaders of communities, families, various congregations, businesses, Ministers and Pastors and our government, including your Governor, who all graduated from Samoana." "Samoana High School has served American Samoa well and with the help of the Alumni, and this is the perfect opportunity to establish a Samoana Alumni Association, our school can continue to educate and produce more productive citizens for many more years," said Governor Togiola.

The weeklong celebration culminated, as it started, with another major turnout comparable to that of a Flag Day celebration at the Samoana football field. It started with a parade, a prayer service, speeches and entertainment provided by the students. Festivities at the field and official closing of the weeklong activities concluded around 1:00pm, however, class re-union parties continued on well into the evening.

Fox Net TV Programs soon to be aired in American Samoa

(Pago Pago) - Malama Communications, Inc. and Fox Net jointly announced this week the signing of their contract agreement for Fox Net to provide Malama Communications with television programming for American Samoa. The agreement will bring a variety of new programs to the territory, including the hit TV shows *American Idol*, *24*, *House*, *The Simpsons*, and more.

Malama President and CEO Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde said they are happy and excited to be able to bring FOX Net programming to the territory. "It has been a long and challenging process for us, but we finally have signed an agreement with Fox Net. We are now working on the technical aspects to bring the programs in via satellite, so that it can be same day programming. Because of the difference in time zones, we hope to tape delay the programming by a few hours to correlate the schedules. If it's scheduled to run at 6p.m. on the east coast, we will run it at 6 p.m. the same day here." The sports programming will be provided live via AFRTS.

Fox Net's Wendy Chambers said they are very pleased to be able to provide programming to American Samoa, and are happy to be working with Malama Communications.

Malama Communications has been operating Channel 4 on AS Cablevision since August last year. According to Langkilde, Channel 4 has picked up a following of its own, and is now very popular with the local community. They will continue to run local programming on Channel 4, including Malama News, and the Fox Net line up will run on Cablevision channel 6..

According to Langkilde, they have been working hand in hand with AS Cablevision to add more programming to meet the entertainment demands of our community.

NOTICE

The Telecommunications Regulatory Commissioner (TRC) advises that an application for designation as an "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" has been filed with the TRC by AST Telecom, LLC d/b/a Blue Sky and is under review.

The application states that Blue Sky (1) offers, or will offer, all of the services supported by the federal high-cost universal service program, either using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services and (2) it advertises, or will advertise, the availability of such services and the charges using media of general circulation.

The application may be reviewed in its entirety at the Office of the Governor, 3rd Floor, Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa, during normal working hours. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of the Governor through May 12, 2006.

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO
Telecommunications Regulatory
Commissioner

**ASG RADIO
PROGRAM**

***with:* Governor Togiola**

Saturdays @ 7a.m.

***on:* Showers of Blessings-
FM 104.7**